

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 077051

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEWT, NATO, XH

SUBJECT: ECONADS: NATO COUNTRIES IMPORTS OF OIL FROM
COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF.: A) USNATO 1898 B) USNATO 1752 C) AC/127-WP/504

1. U.S. EXPERTS HAVE REVIEWED REFDOC C AND INDICATE
THAT THE REPORT IS INTERESTING AND USEFUL. WHILE WE
HAVE NO DETAILED CHANGES TO SUGGEST, A GENERAL CAVEAT
SHOULD BE STATED.

2. THE THRUST OF AC/127-WP/504, WHILE NOT STATED
EXPLICITLY, IS THAT SEVERAL NATO MEMBERS ARE BECOMING
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DANGEROUSLY DEPENDENT ON IMPORTS OF SOVIET OIL AND GAS.
THE CASE IS NOT MADE. THIS DISCUSSION SHOULD BE FRAMED
IN TERMS OF THE NATO MEMBERS' TOTAL ENERGY REQUIREMENT
RATHER THAN OIL AND GAS IMPORTS ALONE. SUCH A STUDY WOULD
SHOW LOWER LEVELS OF DEPENDENCE. -

3. FURTHER, THE MOST RECENT USG STUDIES SUGGEST THAT

THE SOVIET UNION, ALONG WITH THE REST OF CEMA, WILL
BECOME NET OIL IMPORTERS IN THE 1980'S. (THIS ANALYSIS
IS SUPPORTED BY THE MUCH MORE OPTIMISTIC OECD FORECAST
IN THE WORLD ENERGY OUTLOOK.) NATO MEMBER DEPENDENCE

ON THE SOVIET UNION AS A SOURCE OF OIL AND GAS IS UNLIKELY
TO GROW AND WILL PROBABLY BE SHORT LIVED. SOVIET GAS
EXPORTS TO WESTERN EUROPE WILL CONTINUE TO GROW BUT WILL
NOT CONSTITUTE A MAJOR ENERGY DEPENDENCY.

4. RE SUGGESTION PARA (4) REFTEL (B) THAT MEMBERS
PROVIDE ENERGY STATISTICS TO NATO ECONOMIC DIRECTORATE
AT SAME TIME THEY ARE SUBMITTED TO OECD, PLEASE KEEP IN
MIND THAT SUCH RAW DATA REQUIRE EXTENSIVE PROCESSING
TO BE USEFUL FOR NATO PURPOSES.
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